

Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana
February 15, 2006
Minutes

Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana members in attendance: Ryan McCann, Mike Cunegin, John von Arx, Dr. Wyatt Mullinax, Dr. Tim Kelly, Steve Camilleri, James Lyons, Don Parker, Paula Parker-Sawyers, Melissa Long, Steve Clouse, and Sheriff Mark Frisbie

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute staff in attendance: Steve King, Malak Zawahri, Sylvia Miller

Community Consultants in attendance: Kim Linkel, Jen Bushore, Monica Greer, Tim Retherford, Terry Cohen,

Others in attendance: Fran Safford, Jeremy Watson, Kimberly Maxwell, Sandy Thiebe,

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman John von Arx.

I. Welcome/Announcements

Chairman von Arx shared that Sonya is at the CADCA conference. He also shared that PBS had a program on meth last night. He will see if copies can be made for all Commission members. You can check out more at www.pbs.org. As early as 1984, the DEA realized we needed to stop availability of ephedrine. This program was very informative of the history.

Mike Cunegin shared that Allen County will be hosting a meth summit on March 29th. He passed out information and invited all to attend.

Chairman von Arx congratulated Steve on his new child.

Steve King was asked to share about what is going on with Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The Governor's Commission will be alliance members and that will allow us to use their ads. There is a DVD with television ads that is great and will be used in several schools.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chairman von Arx shared that the minutes were not ready to be approved.

III. Committee Reports

Policy/Operations

Kim Linkel shared on behalf of Bill McCormick. The committee has drafted a letter to encourage LCCs to adapt meth problem statements. The next meeting is March 9th. If you are the committee, you will get an email about the exact time.

Chairman von Arx shared that communication has continued with Indiana Judicial Center to create a way to improve collection and distribution of court fees.

Legislation

Steve Clouse shared that HB 1249 passed out of Senate yesterday. There was no opposition so far. The committee would like to start looking at what is needed for the 2007 legislative session. Senator Kruse and Representative Messer were essential in the passing HB 1249. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Youth

Jen Bushore shared on behalf of Andie Marshall. The committee had a meeting today to get started. Jen shared that the Youth Legislative Day was a great event with 200 students attending. Mike Cunegin shared that the students that came from his area really enjoyed the event and Allen County is working on a youth summit to be held in April 2007. Jen also shared that next week we will host Middle School Youth Summits. There will be three locations – Warsaw, Noblesville, and Santa Claus. You are welcome to join us.

Communications

Melissa would like to know reporters from different communities that do a good job or have been responsive to alcohol and other drug issues. She said that having a list of people will help in promoting news stories. If you know of any reporters you would recommend creating a relationship, please let Melissa know. She shared the committee has not met but here are the ideas that they will be working on over the coming months - creating brochure on what the Commission is about and quarterly newsletter to be sent to LCCs, judges, and service providers.

SPF-SIG (Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant)

Mark shared that an Executive Committee has been formed for the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) grant. The problem with these state groups national-wide is that they have a lot of mandated people that must participate. That can be a group up to 50 people. The federal government likes the idea of having an Executive Committee to make decisions and work to reduce bureaucracy. There is a lack of communication for this group and they are working out those issues. Mark shared that the most important part of this grant is the data collection. He said that Indiana is very bad at reporting data to the federal government. Chairman von Arx shared that it is so important that we partner up the Commission, Meth Free Coalition, and the SPF-SIG. Evidence based prevention programs have to be implemented with the 12 million granted to Indiana. 85% has to go toward grants in communities. Only 15% can be used for administration.

Meth Free Indiana

Chairman von Arx shared that the Governor has asked the Commission to be connecting all drug prevention efforts in the state. Because the Meth Free Indiana Coalition is already bringing together state office leaders, it will also serve as the Interagency Council on Drugs.

All Commission members should have received the meth survey via email. Please submit it by Friday. It would be very helpful. That survey went out to all involved with Meth Free Indiana Coalition, law enforcement, LCC Chairs, and some other important segments that have not yet been involved. The results are already showing some good feedback. That full report will be shared when completed.

Meth Free Indiana Coalition met last week. They brainstormed to figure out direction. A planning group meeting is February 22nd. This will be a planning meeting of 25 – 30 people that will look at ideas that came out of the meeting last week. The next full Meth Free Coalition will be March 8th.

Steve King shared that the Patriot Act still has a component to combat methamphetamine. It would require manufacturers of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to contact country governments if they get unusually large orders.

Steve shared updates on legislation related to meth. SB 78 is a bill on the security of anhydrous ammonia. SB193 cleans up language from last year's SB 444. It passed out of Senate and has been assigned to a House committee. HB 1049 deals with family housing unit definition and enhancement of child neglect issues. Voted out of Senate and should be approved.

Cecelia Wylie shared statistic from Meth Suppression Unit. There are 17 troopers assigned to the unit. In the first 11 days working together, 40 new meth cases were initiated, they made 277 retail contacts and received 155 tips from retailers and the community. She shared that Indiana State Police reports 68 lab seizures from January 2006. Last year, there were 89 reported labs in January. In January 2005, there were 17 children affected by meth labs. In January 2006, that number was down to 10. In 2004, there were 1549 labs and in 2005 there were approximately 1300. That is a 16% decrease in the number of labs. The first time we have seen a reduction in 5 years. She shared that meth brochures have been highly requested throughout the state by parent groups, housing units, and many other groups.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Kelly shared that he has been listening to what the LCCs have shared so far with the Commission. He thinks that the system that the Commission has been given can be improved, but there are good things going on within communities. He would like to see each LCC get a chance to share at Commission meetings. He shared an article he read on meth. He talked about addiction as a disease and why people usually end up in treatment. Someone who is related to a person with an addiction problem is four times more likely to have an addiction themselves. When we are doing prevention, we have to consider a person's background. Dr. Kelly also shared a DVD about medical and scientific evidence of addiction.

V. Commission Activity Report

Chairman von Arx said he would like to allow the Community Consultants share their reports then grab lunch on the way out. Everyone agreed that sounded like a good idea.

There was a discussion on what needs to be happening to get law enforcement on board with efforts. Sheriff Frisbie has been asked by the Governor to make sure all law enforcement officers are trained to do drug interdiction. Don Parker shared the incentives to seize drugs and stop problems state wide. There is no incentive for officers to make drug stops. The department benefits from money seizures but they do not benefit from finding drugs. The Commission talked about problems that are being seen statewide and how we can start to impact the problem. They talked about the lack of ability to communicate with the entire state via television. Education on meth and what is going on needs to be done to the whole state. There was discussion on the importance to connect with churches. They have a lot of people involved and can be a vehicle to use to distribute information. There are 9,400 churches in the state.

Community Consultant Regional Reports

Monica Greer has been a Community Consultant since July 2005. She was a LCC Chair for three years prior to that. She is part of the East Central Region and serves 6 counties. All but one of her counties already has Meth Watch in place but the other is still working on the plans to implement. Franklin County is sponsoring a meth summit and are expecting 150 participants. Randolph County LCC is working on a 501 (c) 3 status so that they can apply for other grants. Franklin and Union County LCCs active youth councils. Biggest concern is the protocol for meth task forces. They need information on how to attack the issues.

Chairman von Arx shared that there are two requests for extension on the due date for Comprehensive Community Plans. He asked if that could be something assigned to the Operations Committee to determine. Sheriff Mark Frisbee moved to give the Operations Committee the power to make decisions on extensions. Steve Clouse seconded. Motion passed.

Jen Bushore shared that there are several communities working on meth. Warren County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a meth forum to be held at the end of February. This is a very rural community and they have been proactive to educate the community. Tippecanoe County Mental Health Association has been sponsoring lunch meth forums. They have had a large turnout and they plan on taking action based on what those attending think

needs to be done in the community. Montgomery County's LCC has had Meth Action Team in place for several months.

Kim Linkel works in Northwest Region and serves 6 counties. She shared that at Benton County has a part time Coordinator that the Prosecutor pays for and the Drug-Free Communities Fund is not used to pay for this position. Carroll County just sponsored a meth forum that had over 100 people in attendance. Kim also shared that Cass County is very excited about HB 1249. It will help them to be able to keep track of how their funds are used because there have been some elected officials who have used the Drug-Free Communities Fund without going through the LCC. A concern of Cass County is that the fee is not be assessed by judges or collected by the courts. Kim shared that White County is not very active and not communicating well with her. She is trying to create new relationships and is working to increase involvement in the county.

Terry Cohen serves 5 counties in the Southwest Region. He shared some issues from Vanderburgh County stemming from alcohol compliance checks. There have been some injunctions barring continuing checks. The LCC is hoping to receive some support from the Commission. Terry thanked the Commission for working on HB 1249 and the positive impact that will have for our work.

Rebecca Smith serves 7 counties in West Central Region. At this morning's LCC meeting in Vigo, it was announced that there will be a teleconference next week in Terre Haute on the impact of meth on children. Their grantee reporting process has included outcome measurements. Parke County has approximately 20 active LCC members on their anti-meth committee. They are developing a support group for children whose parents are incarcerated because of drug use. Owen County has used youth to train businesses on the Meth Watch program. Putnam County has a new Coordinator and due to reduced administrative costs, they will be able to solicit mini-grants soon, the first time in a couple of years. She has seen some exciting changes in the way communities think and use funds. Several LCCs are now referring to their Comprehensive Community Plans without prompting and how their activities are impacting their needs.

At 1:20 p.m. with no other business to discuss, Chairman von Arx adjourned the meeting.